



Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP)

2019 Program Evaluation

Review Period: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018

Governing Board Meeting
June 20, 2019

Thanks!

- Tom, NEP staff, partners, and Management Conference (MC) members for a wonderful visit
- PE Review Team
 - Erica Yelensky, SMBNEP Coordinator, EPA-R9
 - Vince Bacalan, SMBNEP Coordinator, EPA-HQ
 - Jennifer Hecker, Executive Director
Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership
- Visiting
 - David Smith, Assistant Director, Water Division, EPA-R9

Congratulations!

- SMBNEP passes the Program Evaluation for this review cycle
 - Significant progress made on implementing the CCMP
 - Will continue to receive future CWA 320 funds

National Estuary Program (NEP)

- Created as an amendment to CWA (Section 320)
- Designated 28 estuaries of national significance
 - Santa Monica Bay became NEP in 1988
- Cornerstones of NEPs
 - Watershed-based approach
 - Science-based decision making
 - Collaborative problem solving
 - Consensus-driven
 - Public participation
- Success is shared at the local and national level

Purpose of NEP Program Evaluation (PE)

- Ensure adequate progress is being made in CCMP implementation and that continued EPA support is warranted.
- Highlight each Program's unique environmental results, strengths and challenges.
- Identify areas where EPA can help provide resources to meet needs or enhance performance.
- Confirm EPA's continued support for the NEP and to seek stakeholders' commitment to the Program.

How EPA Uses Program Evaluations

- Success stories and achievements highlighted on EPA NEP website, used for Congressional briefings, meetings with partners, etc.
- Identified challenges help inform decisions for funding support.
 - Ocean acidification sensor
 - Risk-based climate change vulnerability assessment
 - Organizational assessment
- Makes connections to other EPA offices and programs.
- Share products/approaches/lessons learned across EPA and the NEPs.

Unpublished Content | 2016 | 10 | 20


Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program

What Makes Santa Monica Bay Special?


Santa Monica Bay has 25 miles of coastline containing some of the world's most loved beaches. California surf culture was born on the beaches of Malibu and no trip to Los Angeles is complete without a walk down Venice Beach. Over 72,000,000 people visit the beaches of Los Angeles County each year.


The diversity of the coastal landscape is also enjoyed through hiking, biking, and trail riding in the Santa Monica Mountains. Hiking the coastal trail along 113rd and north of Pico Avenue provides a great opportunity to watch gray whales and their calves migrate to their feeding grounds in Alaska. Year-round, thousands of people surf, beach, fly, and SCUBA dive in Santa Monica Bay.

All of these values take a toll on Santa Monica Bay (SMB). We are comprehensively to reduce pollution, enhance and restore habitats, and invest in the built environment to create green spaces that improve public health while providing water and providing habitat for thousands of species.



EPA National Estuary Program






Federal Panel Presentation for Congressional Estuary Caucus

March 30, 2017

Brianne Smith, Ph.D., Chief
Coastal Management Branch
EPA Office of Water



Addressing 2014 PE Letter Challenges

✓ Financial Management

- Diversifying funding sources and partners
 - State Bond programs, fundraising, corporate/private donations, additional grants and funding mechanisms at the federal, state, and local levels
- High leveraging capacity: range of 15:1 to 58:1 (average 29:1)

✓ Outreach and Public Involvement

- MOU/MOA being updated as part of the CCMP revision process
- Continued public engagement through WAC and public meetings
- Communication through website, print/social media, meeting-related documents

Efficiencies made with TBF as grant recipient (aka overhead)

These have also become a strength for the program.

Preliminary Findings:

Strengths

- Competent, organized, skilled NEP staff to help implement CCMP action items
- Diverse representation of partnerships and entities that make up the SMBNEP Management Conference
- Demonstrated leadership in topics that are based on sound science:
 - Informing policy/ordinance for trash reduction (use of plastic bags/straws)
 - Addressing stormwater/nutrient issues (rain gardens, bioretention ponds)
 - Mobilizing volunteer groups for restoration efforts (kelp forest, beach, dune)

Preliminary Findings:

Challenges

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Consolidated what's presented to public

Clearly stating what is the NEP

NEP Entity- who makes it up? + governance structure it self

TBF- all of it's work is in support of CCMP=> "in the box"

Org chart: should explain what an NEP is, the role of the SMBNEP, and brief information on the partners of the Management Conference and its committees (basically content from first challenge)

Preliminary Findings:

Challenges

- Communicating the NEP brand for external audience

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

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Preliminary Findings:

Challenges

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Accomplishments: both on website and workplan

Next Steps for PE Review Team

- Recommend a “pass” to SMBNEP for making significant progress on implementing the CCMP
- Draft PE findings letter
- Share with SMBNEP staff for comment
- Incorporate feedback and submit to EPA management for signature
- Send signed copy to NEP Director
- Next scheduled PE: 2024

Questions and Discussions